

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 STR-04 /095 W

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R 121546Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2441

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, UR, EALR

SUBJECT: FOOD PRICES IN KIEV, APRIL 4

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 0900 ON SUNDAY APRIL 4 EMBOFF VISITED LARGE MARKET A FEW YARDS OFF ULITSA KRESHCHATIK IN CENTER OF KIEV. WEATHER WAS WARM AND SUNNY AND MARKET WAS VERY CROWDED.

2. MEAT. IN LARGE SECTION ALLOCATED FOR MEAT SALES ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF STANDS HAD ANYTHING TO SELL. OF THESE, ONLY ABOUT ONE OR TWO WERE SELLING VEAL. PRICE WAS R. 2.70 PER KILO AND QUALITY APPEARED TO BE GOOD. ABOUT TEN OR TWELVE STANDS WERE SELLING BEEF AT R. 1.90 PER KILO. QUALITY APPEARED TO BE FAIR. THERE WAS A MUCH LARGER VOLUME OF PORK BEING OFFERED FOR SALE AND VARIOUS TYPES WERE BEING OFFERED BY ALL STANDS ON PORK SIDE OF THE HALL. PRICE WAS R. 4.00 PER KILO.

3. POULTRY. ONE STAND SOLD TURKEYS AT RUBLES 2.70 PER KILO. THERE APPEARED TO BE NO TAKERS. A FEW STANDS WERE SELLING CHICKENS AT 8 TO 10 RUBLES EACH. BIRDS WERE SMALL TO MEDIUM IN SIZE, QUALITY APPEARED POOR.

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RM EGGS OF MEDIUM SIZE WERE R. 140 FOR TEN.

5. THE ONLY FRUIT ON SALE WAS APPLES AND ALL WERE SMALL TO MEDIUM IN SIZE. SMALL YELLOW APPLES WERE R. 3 PER KILO, GREEN APPLES (SLIGHTLY LARGER) WERE R. 2 PER KILO AND RED APPLES, MEDIUM SIZE, R. 3 PER KILO. QUALITY OF ALL WAS FAIR TO POOR.

6. VEGETABLES. CABBAGE SOLD FOR R. 1.00 PER KILO, CARROTS FOR 70 KOPECKS PER KILO, DRIED PRUNES OF MEDIUM SIZE R. 2.30 PER KILO. DRIED PRUNES, APPLES AND APRICOTS MIXED SOLD FOR R. 2 PER KILO. ONIONS WERE R. 2 PER KILO AND POTATOES AND TURNIPS 50 KOPECKS PER KILO. GREEN SALAD (LETTUCE) WAS OFFERED AT THREE STANDS FOR 80 KOPECKS PER KILO. THERE WERE VERY FEW BUYERS.

7. CURRANTS IN LARGE SUPPLY WERE R. 2.00 FOR 100 GRAMS.

8. DURING WEEK OF APRIL 2-9 EMBOFF NOTED USUAL LARGE SIGNS IN RESTAURANTS IN KIEV, VIEEITSA, LVOV, UZHGOROD, BAR AND MUKACHEVO PROCLAIMING THAT BREAD IS A "NATIONAL TREASURE" AND MUST BE SAVED. WITH EXCEPTION OF CHICKEN, HOWEVER, THERE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY NOTICEABLE SHORTAGES OF BREAD OR OTHER STANDARD FOODS IN RESTAURANTS WITH OFFICER VISITED.
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